

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 09176

EXDIS

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TAGS: PFOR, GR, NATO

SUBJ: LIBYANS REPORTEDLY URGING GREECE TO QUIT NATO

1. MORRIS FRASER WAS PROVED RIGHT IN AT LEAST PART OF HIS ACCOUNT (LONDON 9160 AND 9161 NOTAL) THAT GREEK OFFICERS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING GREECE QUITTING NATO.

2. LATEST TWIST HE REPORTS (FROM TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH ATHENS) IS GROWING ARGUMENT IN SAME OFFICER CIRCLES FOR GREECE JOINING SOME SORT OF MEDITERRANEAN NON-ALIGNED PACT. HE SAYS LIBYANS ARE URGING THIS COURSE ON GREEKS, ARGUING AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT GREEKS COULD BENEFIT FROM CHEAP LIBYAN OIL JUST AS YUGOSLAVS ARE DOING. FRASER SAYS THERE IS PRESSURE FROM YOUNGER OFFICERS ON IOANNIDES TO TAKE THIS COURSE.

3. FROM WHAT FRASER ADDED, WE GATHER ARGUMENT IS ALSO BEING MADE AMONG PRO-AMERICAN GREEK OFFICERS THAT MAINTENANCE OF US MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS IN GREECE COULD BE INDEPENDENT OF NATO TIES, AND MIGHT BE ALL THE CLOSER FOR GOG'S GREATER DEPENDENCE ON USG. OTHERS
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PAGE 02 LONDON 09176 211350Z

ARE ARGUING THAT EGYPT IS NOT DOING BADLY IN ITS

RELATIONS WITH US DESPITE NON-ALIGNED STATUS. BASIC IMPETUS REMAINS OFFICER DISGUST AT LACK OF SUPPORT FROM EUROPEAN NATO PARTNERS, ESPECIALLY UK, WHICH IS BELIEVED TO BE IN LEAGUE WITH THE TURKS.

4. FRASER ALSO ASKED OUR OPINION OF NATO BASE ON CRETE AS POSSIBLE MEETING PLACE FOR TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS INSTEAD OF LONDON--BECAUSE OF GREEK "HATRED" OF BRITISH AND AWKWARD COMMUNICATIONS WITH ATHENS. WE POINTED OUT IT INCONCEIVABLE TURKS WOULD AGREE TO MEET ON GREEK SOIL (EVEN NATO BASE).

5. FINALLY, FRASER TOLD US WESTERN VIEW OF GREEK OFFICER DYNAMICS INACCURATE IN ONE IMPORTANT RESPECT. IOANNIDES IS BY NO MEANS SOLE ARBITER. AS IMPORTANT, FRASER SAID, IS CHIEF OF ARMY GALATSANOS, WHO CONTROLS ARMOR AND HEAVY WEAPONS. GALATSANOS IS AN OLD PATTAKOS SUPPORTER AND IS WORKING WITH SUPPORT OF COS BONANOS, WHILE PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS SUPPORTS IOANNIDES. GREEK OFFICERS FORESEE WITCH HUNT TO SEE WHERE MISTAKES WERE MADE WHEN THIS THING IS OVER. IOANNIDES AND GALATSONOS EACH HAVE VETOPOWER OVER POLICY. BOTH NEED A VICTORY OUT OF THIS SITUATION FOR FEAR THEY MAY NOT SURVIVE WHAT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A DEFEAT. SIMPLE REMOVAL OF MAKARIOS WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT "VICTORY" IN THEIR OPINION, FRASER BELIEVES.

6. COMMENT: FRASER OBVIOUSLY HAS SOME GOOD CONTACTS IN GREEK OFFICER CIRCLES INVOLVED WITH POLICY DISCUSSIONS (AMONG LEFTOVERS FROM THE PAPADOPOULOS DAYS, WE ASSUME)' WE ARE TAKING HIS STATEMENTS MORE SERIOUSLY.

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